

# On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp



Everyone's house has a few of them.

Some peoples' houses are chocked full of them.

Ours has at least its share. Maybe more.

It's that stuff that you use only on occasion, but absolutely have to keep around for those periodic instances when you couldn't possibly be without it. You know, those items that clog your basement shelves, multiply in the garage and fall on your head when you open the hall closet.

The stuff you probably can't find when you finally do need it.

(We have a place on the farm, too, where such agricultural items

are kept. We call it The Farmer's shop.)

Digging out the canning equipment recently, I pondered on some the miscellaneous items accumulated over the years, faithfully stored and of great necessity for perhaps three or four days out of 365.

Like my Foley food mill. Running tomatoes for pasta sauce through it's hand-cranked sieve, the sturdy metal dark and discolored from use, I remembered another, more costly, gadget once acquired for the same job. But the food mill is less hassle to use and easier to clean up, so the other gathers dust on a basement shelf.

Also called into use for tomato canning season is a vintage, wide-mouthed funnel of aluminum, perfect for filling jars. The funnel is battered and crinkled from fighting for cupboard space with other items of other eras. Like the plastic set of popsicle makers untouched in years. And cookie cutters. Who has time to roll out, cut and decorate shaped cookies?

Keeping company near the canning stuff is a 20-cup coffee pot. It came into our lives years ago for use while exhibiting at cattle shows.

Now in retirement, it perks into life only for the occasional meeting or large family gathering we might host.

Then, too, there are items stored for periodic use - and lost. (Maybe not at your house, but certainly at ours!) Several years ago, my mother gifted me with an attractive, insulated, beverage carafe. I carefully stored it where it could be found when needed - and then couldn't. It turned up later as I searched for something else - and then got lost a second time.

By the time the carafe and I had agreed on a mutually convenient spot to meet one another, a tablecloth turned up missing. This heavy, plastic-coated, outdoor tablecloth was a gift from a good friend who sent it along back with

a picnic table their family had borrowed.

The tablecloth spent all last summer on our back porch - covering the picnic table. I wiped it extra clean for storage in the fall, carefully folded it and put it away. Somewhere. I remember running across it in the spring - while looking for something else - and mentally noting that it would soon be needed again. Then lost the mental note.

That tablecloth still hasn't turned up, but should still be in

mint condition for next summer. If I can find it.

And while thinking about all this, a floor polisher that hasn't been used for years suddenly came to mind. I haven't a clue where in the house it might be. Or if it's even in the house any longer.

Indeed, perhaps the time has come to make a clean sweep of the place and hold a "clearance" yard sale. Except I might need some of this stuff. Someday.

If I can just find it.

## Bake Sale Set

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — If you happen to be traveling or vacationing in the Lancaster County tourist country on Saturday, September 4, the Labor Day weekend, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., be sure to turn north on Shirk Rd., 1/2 mile off Rt. 23 west of New Holland.

The 13th annual bake sale is being held at Beiler Hydraulics-Homemade ice cream will be made on site with antique hit and miss engines and old-time freezers.

The local community will be

making subs, soft pretzels, chicken barbecue, chicken corn soup, and plenty of fresh baked goods, fruits, vegetables, quilts, crafts, and much more. (Chicken barbecue, baked potatoes, and coleslaw) platters will be served at noon).

This is an annual nonprofit event done by the community as a fund drive to help the unfortunate families with large hospital bills.

For more information, contact John L. Beiler, 252 N. Shirk Road, New Holland, Pa. 17557, (717) 354-6066.

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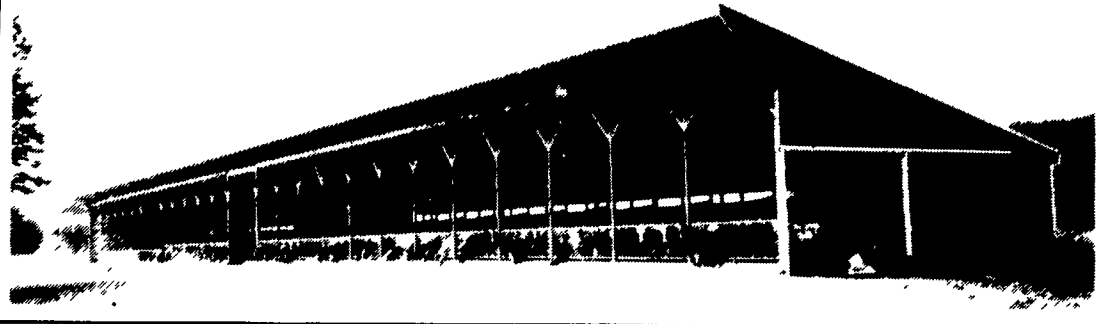


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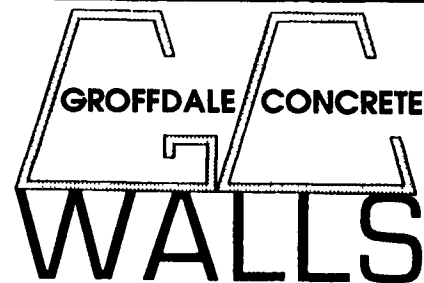
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